

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). A method comprising

providing a tool ~~having an elongated axis, the tool comprising a hollow body that extends along the elongated axis and includes a wall that peripherally extends completely about the elongated axis and terminates at~~ having a distal end, the tool also comprising ~~a projection~~ an extension that ~~extends outward beyond~~ protrudes from the distal end of the body ~~along the elongated axis and that~~ and forms ~~an elongated~~ a platform ~~that peripherally extends less than completely about the elongated axis,~~

providing an expandable structure ~~having a longitudinal axis, the expandable body being sized and configured, upon expansion, to form a void in cancellous bone;~~

introducing the tool and the expandable structure into a bone having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone;

positioning the ~~elongated~~ platform ~~along the longitudinal axis of the expandable structure near the expandable structure, with the platform located~~ between the expandable structure and a first region of the cancellous bone ~~within the bone which is not to be compressed;~~ and

forming a ~~void~~ cavity in ~~another~~ a second region of cancellous bone ~~within the bone~~ by expanding the expandable structure with the ~~elongated~~ platform ~~positioned to serve~~ serving as an ~~expansion~~ a barrier to induce ~~that directs entire expansion of the expandable structure to expand~~ away from the ~~elongated~~ platform ~~and toward the other~~ to compress the second region of the cancellous bone, while the first region of the cancellous bone remains substantially not compressed.

2 to 3 (Canceled).

4 (Previously Presented). . The method of claim 1, wherein during the expanding the expandable structure displaces at least a portion of a cortical bone within the bone.

5 to 10 (Canceled).

11 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising introducing a filler material into the ~~void~~ cavity.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11, wherein the filler material comprises bone cement.

13 to 22 (Canceled).

23 (New). A method according to claim 1, wherein the tool and the expandable structure are introduced into a vertebral body having an interior volume occupied, at least in part, by cancellous bone.